

M I N U T E S
STUDIES COMMITTEE
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

November 4, 1981

The meeting of the Studies Committee was called to order at 11:15 a.m., Wednesday, November 4, 1981, by the Chairperson, Representative Lawrence Pope, in Committee Room 22 of the State House, Des Moines, Iowa. Members in attendance in addition to Chairperson Pope were:

Senator C. Joseph Coleman
Senator Calvin O. Hultman
Senator Lowell L. Junkins
Senator Richard R. Ramsey
Senator Ray Taylor
Representative Donald D. Avenson
Representative John H. Clark
Representative John H. Connors
Representative Lester D. Menke

Also attending were Serge H. Garrison, Director of the Legislative Service Bureau, Burnette E. Koebernick and Debra Dahab of the Legislative Service Bureau, various legislative staff, and other interested persons.

Senator Hultman moved that the minutes of the last meeting of the Studies Committee be approved as distributed. The motion was seconded by Senator Ramsey and carried on a voice vote.

Chairperson Pope indicated that several subcommittees have requested additional meetings. A letter has been submitted on behalf of the Chairpersons of the Court Study Subcommittee requesting one additional meeting day. Senator Hultman moved that the Court Study Subcommittee be authorized one additional meeting day. The motion was second by Senator Coleman and carried on a voice vote.

Chairperson Pope noted that a letter has been submitted on behalf of the Chairpersons of the City Civil Service Subcommittee requesting two additional meeting days. Senator Hultman moved that the City Civil Service Subcommittee be authorized two additional meeting days. The motion was seconded by Senator Junkins and it carried on a voice vote.

Chairperson Pope stated that the Elderly Abuse and Elderly Service Subcommittee has requested one additional meeting day. Representative Connors moved that the Elderly Abuse and Elderly Service Subcommittee be authorized one additional meeting day. The motion was seconded by Senator Coleman and carried on a voice vote.

Chairperson Pope noted that the issue of block grants has been referred to the Studies Committee by the Legislative Council.

Senator Hultman moved that the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations be authorized to meeting jointly after November 20, 1981 when the United States Congress has determined federal budget funding levels and authorize Appropriations Subcommittees to meet to study the funding levels and report back to the Standing Committees on Appropriations and the General Assembly.

Senator Junkins suggested that there is an immediate need to establish some procedure to use people from the Appropriations Subcommittees or the Block Grants Subcommittee to review the problems now by identifying those programs affected by block grants and submit their recommendations to the Standing Committees on Appropriations. Senator Hultman responded that the Block Grants Subcommittee has completed its work and it is now time to use the expertise of the members of the Committees on Appropriations.

Representative Avenson suggested that Senator Hultman's recommendation is a good starting point. However, confusion exists now among recipients of benefits and agency administrators. It is known that there are going to be budget cuts. It is necessary to develop a policy as to how the state can react to those budget cuts and the General Assembly must begin the process of determining its priorities with regard to those programs which will be affected by the budget cuts.

Senator Hultman suggested that now is not the time to begin since all that can be done now is add to the confusion which already exists. By November 20, everyone may have a better idea as to what the federal government intends to do and then it is possible to proceed to make some decisions.

Senator Junkins stated that the current recommendation only adds to the confusion. He indicated that it is his opinion that it is necessary to identify the problem areas now and this can only be done by beginning a series of public hearings throughout the state. He suggested that if public hearings are held now, the General Assembly will have to rely upon the state agencies again. Representative Avenson opined that a need exists to determine priorities and identify problem areas now so that the General Assembly can develop its responses to the problems.

Senator Junkins moved a substitute motion to use the Block Grants Subcommittee as a steering committee to establish select subcommittees to hold hearings throughout the state and to begin developing legislation immediately based upon the impact of the federal budget and revenue cuts. The motion was seconded by Representative Avenson.

The question was called on the Junkins substitute motion and it failed on a vote of four ayes and six nays. Voting in the affirmative were Senators Junkins and Coleman and Representatives Avenson and Connors. Voting in the negative were Chairperson Pope,

Senators Hultman, Briles, and Taylor and Representatives Clark and Menke.

The question was called on the Hultman motion and it was approved on a vote of six ayes and four nays. Voting in the affirmative were Chairperson Pope, Senators Hultman, Briles, and Taylor and Representatives Clark and Menke. Voting in the negative were Senators Junkins and Coleman and Representatives Avenson and Connors.

Senator Junkins emphasized that it is not his intention to play politics on the issue but that an honest difference of opinion exists as to the approach the General Assembly should follow in addressing the problem.

There being no further business, the meeting of the Studies Committee was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNETTE E. KOEBERNICK
Senior Legal Counsel